Contents

Introduction 1
I. MODELS OF HISTORICAL RETRIEVAL
1 The Wayward Temporality of Literature 9
2 Recurrence, Institution, and Literary Kind 31
II. REVIVALS AND CONTINUITY
3 Poetic Recollection and the Phantomized Past 61
4 Ancestral Gloom and Glory 106
III. DISCONTINUITY
5 Milton's Siege of Contraries: Universal Waste and Redemption 141
6 Questers in an Icy Elysée: Moderns without Ancestry 160
IV. LITERARY HISTORY?
7 Ceres and the Librarians of Babel 197
Notes 231
Index 253